

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES D. EDOFF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished member of the Michigan education community, Dr. James D. Edoff, upon his retirement as Superintendent from the Fitzgerald Public Schools in the City of Warren. He has served in this capacity for twelve of the thirty-five years he has been associated with the district.

Dr. Edoff's exceptional career in education spans a broad range of positions, including teacher in the disciplines of science and mathematics at the elementary, middle and high school levels, high school debate coach, adult education instructor, computer coordinator, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent.

Dr. Edoff's international experiences include studying, teaching and participating in seminars and symposiums in Wales, the Netherlands, Peoples Republic of China, Germany, Japan, England and Austria. His work has been recognized both locally by the City of Warren in the "Exceptional Service to the Community" award and internationally through the Fulbright Memorial Award to study the Japanese educational school system in Japan as a guest of the government of Japan, and the Netherlands Study Fellowship.

His leadership involvement in the community has been extensive and is exemplified by his chairmanship of Creating a Healthier Macomb, an organization dedicated to the medical, economic and spiritual improvement of the community. His interest in career training for students within four public school districts is shown in the position he holds as Chairperson of the South Macomb Technical Education Consortium.

Jim Edoff has been a forceful, persuasive advocate for an equal public education for all students. He has been instrumental in endeavors to meet that goal in a school district that does not possess the fiscal resources that make it easy to achieve. I have been pleased to join him at the numerous noteworthy events including the dedication of the Automotive and Pre-Engineering Technology Institute and the Communication Arts Wing of the High School. His achievements, as well as his leadership approach, have been an inspiration to parents and students, and to me personally.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this fine individual and thanking him for his dedication to our public education system. He has made a difference in the lives of numerous children and families, and we will miss his regular involvement in our local education community. I wish him good health and happiness in his retirement and much success as he sets out on his next path which I am confident will build on the good deeds of the one which draws to a close at Fitzgerald.

RECOGNIZING THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM AND PRIDE INDUSTRIES

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small federal program that is often overlooked as a way to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, often referred to as JWOD, provides job opportunities to more than 38,000 Americans who have severe disabilities or who are blind. Under the JWOD Program, these Americans are able to secure jobs and job training necessary to receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence, self-esteem, and quality of life. These individuals enjoy full participation in their community and are able to market the skills they have learned through their work with the JWOD Program into other public and private sector jobs.

The JWOD Program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social support programs such as welfare and SSI.

In my Fourth Congressional District of California and throughout the nation, PRIDE Industries, through its excellent federal-private sector partnership with NISH, is able to utilize the JWOD Program to create and sustain employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities.

On behalf of the many people with disabilities who provide important services, I salute the important contributions of the JWOD Program and PRIDE Industries headquartered in Roseville, California, and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards enhancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

TRIBUTE ON THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICAN HERITAGE PLAZA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend the Mexican Heritage Plaza/Centro Cultural de San José on its 5th anniversary.

The Mexican Heritage Corporation opened its Mexican Heritage Plaza (MHP) in September 1999 to nurture pride and promote appreciation, interest and awareness of California's Latino cultural heritage.

The Mexican Heritage Plaza/Centro Cultural de San José is in the heart of San José's oldest and largest Mexican-American community. The Plaza's goals are to capture the spirit of the Mexican-American community, to complement neighboring schools by providing educational opportunities, to establish a "landmark" gathering place and to provide a center for learning about history and culture. The Mexican Cultural Heritage Gardens and Plaza have become a destination for everyone who lives in or visits the Bay Area.

The complex includes a 500-seat state-of-the-art theater, classrooms, three distinct thematic gardens, a centralized plaza and and La Galeria, a 4,000-square foot exhibition space with two art galleries celebrating the Latino legacy. La Galeria is one of only ten affiliates of the Smithsonian Institution in California.

MHP has launched the annual San José International Mariachi Festival and Conference, a successful education and concern program. Every July, they teach hundreds of children and adults the music and dance that originated in western Mexico. The public is invited to Mariachi Concerts featuring world-renowned musicians, a splendid Mariachi Mass, a procession on Sunday and an outdoor Mariachi Festival at the Plaza.

I can tell you from first-hand experience that I am proud of the leadership, volunteers and network of supporters whose music dedication has built the Mexican Heritage Plaza/Centro Cultural de San José into an integral part of the fabric of our local community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on roll call votes 424, 425, 426, and 427. I was regrettably absent from the chamber on September 8th during the roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye on roll call 424, and "no" on roll calls 425, 426 and 427.

80TH BURNING OF ZOZOBRA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, a 50-foot man stuffed with shredded documents will go up in flames tonight at Fort Marcy Park in Santa Fe. Each year the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe stages the burning of Zozobra, kicking off the annual Fiestas de Santa Fe on the following Labor Day. Zozobra centers around the ritual burning in effigy of Old Man Gloom, or Zozobra, to dispel the hardships and travails of the past year. Over 30,000 people are expected to attend the 80th anniversary of this celebrated tradition tonight.

Zozobra is the invention of Santa Fe painter Will Shuster, who had the first burning of a 3-foot-high effigy in his back yard back in 1924. His inspiration for Zozobra came from the Holy Week celebrations of the Yaqui Indians of Mexico; an effigy of Judas, filled with firecrackers, was led around the village on a donkey and later burned. A newspaper editor and friend of Schuster's came up with the name Zozobra, which is Spanish for "the gloomy one."

The Fiestas celebration began in 1712 to celebrate an expedition by Don Diego de Vargas, who reconquered the territory of New Mexico. Zozobra became part of the Fiestas in 1926, and the Kiwanis club began sponsoring the burning in 1963 as its major fundraiser.